

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1-16 are rejected.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claim 1 has been amended to address this rejection.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,765,138 (Aycock) and U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0138377 (Weber). Claims 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Aycock, Weber and U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,753 (McFarland).

The Examiner has not found each and every limitation of Claim 1

With regard to claim 1, Weber does not disclose client information including a number of employees employed by the client. Rather, Weber discloses, as noted by the Examiner, a "user identification field 122 . . . that may be utilized to identify a user, such as an employee or a manager." Office Action, May 12, 2009, p. 4 (emphasis added). Such a field is not a number of employees employed by a client.

With regard to claim 1, Aycock does not disclose receiving auditor staffing requirements information, wherein the auditor staffing requirements information is based on the number of employees employed by the client. Rather, Aycock discloses a system that "comprises a first database storing a plurality of existing standards for use in formulating a set of requirements for a project, a vendor database storing existing vendor performance reports, historical vendor performance reports and prior on-site audit reports" Aycock, col. 3, ll. 44-49. Nothing in the above discloses that auditor staffing requirements information is based on the number of employees employed by the client. Furthermore, the Examiner admits that "Aycock does not disclose a number of employees," Office Action, May 12, 2009, p. 4, and, as explained above, Weber does not disclose client information including a number of employees employed by the client.

The dependent claims are patentable because they depend from claim 1.

Applicant's Attorney submits that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Applicant's Attorney respectfully requests a notice to that effect. Applicant's Attorney also invites a telephone conference if the Examiner believes that it will advance the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 06/29/2009

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